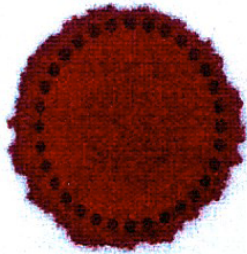


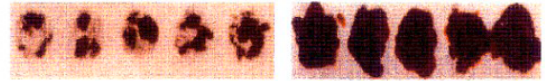
# Filter Paper Collection Specimen – Visual Aid

## VALID SPECIMEN



- Allow sufficient amount of blood to soak through to completely fill the circle

## Unsatisfactory Specimens



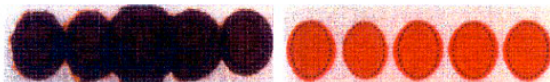
### Insufficient

- All circles not filled with blood
- Entire circle not filled with blood
- Blood did not soak through the filter paper

### Scratched or Abraded

- Capillary tube used
- Filter paper mutilated

## Unsatisfactory Specimens



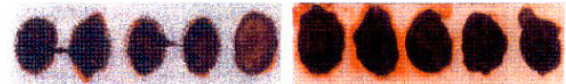
### Supersaturated

- Application of excess blood, usually with a device (syringe)
- Blood should not touch between circles

### Not Dry before mailing

- Placed in sealed plastic bag before dry

## Unsatisfactory Specimens



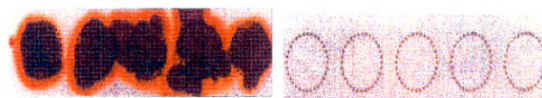
### Clotted or Layered

- Layers of blood on same circle of card
- Capillary tube used for collection
- Blood applied to both sides of filter paper

### Diluted or Contaminated

- Foot not dried completely from alcohol
- Something spilled on filter paper before or after blood collection

## Unsatisfactory Specimens



### Serum Rings

- Serum separated into clear rings around blood spot
- Card dried vertically (on side) instead of flat
- Squeezing excessively around puncture site

### No Blood

## Drying/Mailing Instructions

- Air dry specimen FLAT for at least 10 minutes, 3 hours recommended
  - Keep away from heat and direct sunlight
- Mail specimens within 24 hours of collection
  - Do not hold specimens for bulk mailing
  - Pre-addressed envelopes are available for prompt mailing

## Filter Paper Collection Instructions

1. Thoroughly wash patient's hand or foot with mild soap and warm water. Label collection card with double identifier (with child name and tube submitter number, as listed on laboratory requisition form). Use care to avoid contaminating the collection circles by touching them.
2. Warm the skin-puncture site with a warm moist towel for three minutes to increase blood flow.
3. Disinfect site from which blood is to be collected with alcohol prep pad.
4. Wipe off excess alcohol with sterile dry gauze and allow skin to air dry.
5. Puncture finger/heel with supplied lancet, following guidelines recommended by the manufacturer of the lancet. Use of heel is preferable for children up to one year of age.
6. Wipe away first drop of blood with sterile gauze.
7. Allow large drops of blood to form and apply directly to filter paper, saturating circle. Avoid allowing finger/heel to touch the filter paper.
8. Blood flow from the puncture site is enhanced by holding the puncture site downward. Do not squeeze as this will introduce tissue fluid which dilutes blood serum.
9. Fill three circles with a single drop of blood each. Do not layer successive drops.

**Note:** The circles are provided as a guide for the approximate size and location of the blood spots. The sample is acceptable if the blood spots fall outside of the circles as long as they are of adequate size.

10. Allow the blood spots to dry at room temperature in a horizontal position for two or more hours.
11. **Do not stack wet specimens.**
12. **Do not expose specimens to heat or direct sunlight.**
13. After specimens are completely dry, fold the flap over the blood spot prior to mailing.
14. Mail specimens in envelopes provided within 24 hours of specimen collection.

- - - - - see other side for visual aid - - - - -